

THE CHOWAN HERALD

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Edenton's Fabulous Fourth of July

pictures can be found on Page 1-B



Log truck overturns

Reports from the North Carolina Highway Patrol indicate that the brakes failed on this 1989 Peter Built causing it to overturn. The truck driven by John Lynwood Brooks of Ahoskie was headed East on Highway 32 just outside of Edenton on Thursday, July 5. At approximately 1:55 p.m. Brooks approached the intersection of Highway 32 and State Road 1114 and was attempting to slow the truck when the brakes failed. The truck overturned, losing the load of logs. Chowan County Emergency Medical and Edenton Fire Department responded to the wreck. North Carolina Highway Patrol Trooper J. H. Blizzard investigated the accident. No charges were filed against the driver. Brooks sustained only minor cuts. (Staff photo by Helen Kerr Outland)

County will upgrade GIS map system

BY MARIEL BETANCOURT
Cox NC Publications

Without a GIS system available, a person who needs to study county maps must pull them out of a drawer and examine the maps individually. And these paper maps have limited uses; there's no easy way for a police officer to view a specific rural address before answering a call, just as there's no way to track county trends - such as rainfall - on one map.

But with a Geographical Information System, the maps that previously took up pages of papers fit on one computer or one CD as digital maps.

Chowan County - one of the few counties currently without this type of system - should have its GIS complete sooner than 2004, the target date set in 1999, according to Gail Forehand, land records manager for Chowan County.

County officials have allocated \$98,000 in the 2002 fiscal year to complete the GIS, and the most expensive work, taking the pictures of the land from air, has been finished. Now, officials must purchase software to manage the maps, and continue downloading the information onto the computers.

"Everything doesn't come at one time, we have to do it step-by-step," Forehand said. "We do it as quick as we can, but it is a process of loading one layer of data at a time."

Technically, the term "GIS" refers to the computer system that stores and manipulates information about specific geographic areas. But the term can also include the data in the system and even the personnel

who operate it. A GIS makes it easier on county officials to enter information about the area and then match it to a specific area on a map.

Specifically, the county will use the GIS to track property lines and soil types, and - in the future - to direct law enforcement or firefighters to an emergency. Now, when a person calls 911, the caller's address and phone number appears on a dispatcher's screen.

With a GIS, the dispatcher can access a map of the caller's street and even a picture of the caller's home, if the system has one available. Dispatchers can also better pinpoint the location of a person calling on a wireless phone.

"It's an excellent tool, and not only for fire and rescue, but for any situation where law enforcement is required," Jim Carr, director of Chowan County's Central Communications Center, said. "...If we have to give directions, or if there's a concern about what unit responded, it would give us a better idea of where they are."

"It's just another tool for getting a faster response," Carr added.

The 2002 budget also includes \$30,000 to place the GIS tax and land records on the county's Web site for the use of residents. Last year, the county spent an estimated \$74,000 to gather aerial pictures of the region for the first time since 1979. The county now has aerial maps on both CD and paper.

"It's something we really needed with all the development we've had in the last 20 years," Forehand said.

Major roof repairs set for schools

BY MARIEL BETANCOURT
Cox NC Publications

Major repairs on the roofs at both John A. Holmes High School and Chowan Middle School will begin during the next month, as the Edenton-Chowan Schools Board of Education approved a final bid for the work at its meeting last Monday evening.

McClure Estimating of Williamston, NC, will complete the re-roofing at both schools for \$1,289,574, the lowest of six bids presented to the board. Originally, the project called only for the re-roofing of the main buildings at both schools, but school officials have chosen to also repair some of the site

buildings.

"We might as well go ahead and take care of not only any immediate needs, but future needs as well," Dr. Allan Smith, superintendent of schools, said, as he presented the bids to the Chowan County Board of Commissioners, which also met Monday.

The commissioners originally allocated \$1 million to the schools for the re-roofing, so the school system will pay the additional \$289,574 the project will cost.

McClure Estimating - which will soon complete the roof at the new DF Walker Elementary School - will bring its re-roofing materials to Holmes High School and Chowan Middle

School during the next 20 to 30 days. Construction will begin after that, and should be complete within 180 days.

School will be in session during the re-roofing, Smith said.

"That's the downside," he said. "It's just a massive project. You can't get it done within the summer months."

School officials will work with the construction crew to minimize disturbances during key time periods, Smith added. For example, during testing days, the school can ask that work be done as far from classroom areas as possible.

"Roofers tell us it will not cause a distraction at all, but that remains to be seen," Smith said. "A roofer's idea of noise

and a teacher's idea of noise are two different things."

School officials chose to expand the project when, prior to the bidding, roofing engineers inspected both schools and recommended the additional work. Holmes - which has a leaky roof - will be re-roofed with a low-slope, metal roof extending from the media and English areas, over to the two-story wing, and also covering the cafeteria and vocational area. The field house will receive minor repairs.

Chowan Middle School will also have its main building re-roofed, as well as the eighth grade wing and the art/music building. Some weathered siding will be replaced at the middle school as well.

All-Star game to be aired

The Coastal Plain League has released the roster for the 2001 Northern Division All-Star Team in preparation for the Coastal Plain League's Third Annual All-Star Game that will be played at Historic Hicks Field in Edenton Wednesday, July 11.

The Northern Division is made up of five teams: Edenton, Outer Banks, Peninsula, Petersburg, and Wilson. The roster includes at least two players from each team. The Northern Division head coaches, general managers, and media representatives selected the players. Two Mizuno Hitters of the Week, Anthony Bocchino of the Petersburg Generals and John Kaye of the Outer Banks Daredevils, highlight the North roster. Brandon Hall of the

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County acquires new DARE mobile unit to aid education

BY HELEN KERR OUTLAND
Staff Writer

Chowan County's DARE program has a new look to it. This past week the new DARE mobile unit took to the road. The unit is a refurbished ambulance and is the brainchild of Deputy Carl A. Rabe, DARE Officer of the Chowan County

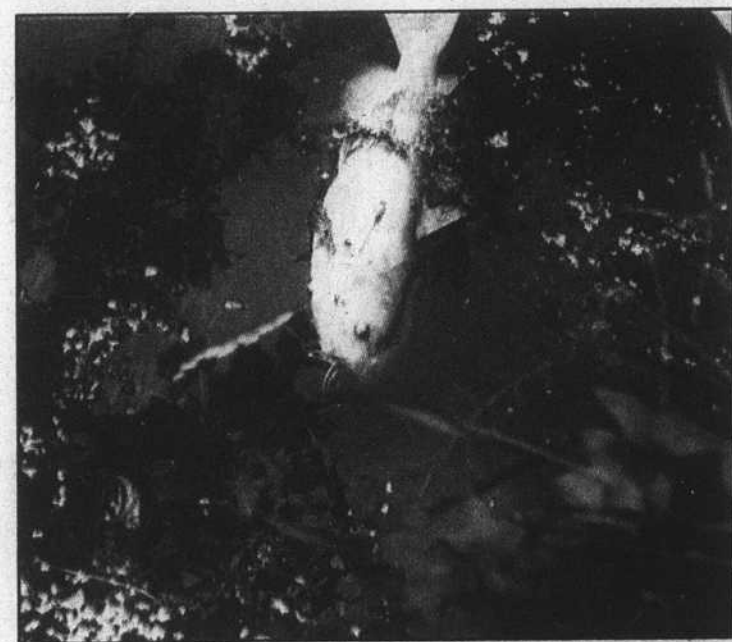
Sheriff's Office.

In June of this year Rabe completed a 400-hour Community Policing Certificate Program. As a result of this program, Deputy Rabe had to submit a project that would aid Chowan County in community policing.

"Deputy Rabe came to me with a proposal for a mobile

unit that totally incorporated all the equipment and educational tools needed to facilitate Drug Awareness Education in the county," says Sheriff Fred Spruill. Rabe had done significant research in the acquisition and use of a multipurpose unit that would enhance the

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A fish kill discovered at Bennett's Millpond in Chowan County in early July has been dubbed "naturally occurring" by state Wildlife officials. (Staff photo by Helen Kerr Outland)

Fish kill at Bennett's Millpond investigated

BY HELEN KERR OUTLAND
Staff Writer

ROCKY HOCK - Local residents who may have planned to use Bennett's Millpond for a family outing during the 4th of July were discouraged to find thousands of dead fish floating on the pond's surface.

By the end of last week dead

and decaying fish could be seen floating on the surface of the grayish/white water. Many others could be seen near the surface gasping for air or jumping.

According to reports from the N C Wildlife Resources Commission's Environmental

See FISH On Page 4-A



Local officials are invited to view the new DARE mobile unit for Chowan County

Gates Open At 6:00 p.m.



EDENTON STEAMERS PRESENT
2001 ALL-STAR GAME - WEDNESDAY, JULY 11
HISTORIC HICKS FIELD, EDENTON



Game Starts At 7:35 p.m.